

## **Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility**

# **GE Specialty Chemicals, Inc.**

**Morgantown Industrial Park South  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
Congressional District 1  
EPA ID #: WVD061776977  
Last Updated: July 12, 2005**

## **Current Progress at the Site**

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On June 23, 1990, EPA issued a RCRA Corrective Action Consent Order to GE Specialty Chemicals, Inc. to investigate releases of hazardous constituents from this facility, to complete a corrective measures study, and, if necessary, to prepare and implement an Interim Measures workplan. In 2003, EPA revised the order recipient from GE Specialty Chemicals, Inc. to General Electric Company. In July, 2003, GE sold the facility to Crompton Corporation. As a result of the sale, GE retained responsibility for addressing most of the requirements of the Consent Order and Crompton Corporation took on responsibilities of the Order related to current operations and any new releases. On July 1, 2005, as a result of a merger between Crompton Corporation and another chemical company, the name of the owner of the facility changed from Crompton Corporation to Chemtura Corporation.

Several phases of investigation have been completed at the facility. With respect to investigation activities implemented by GE, in 1992, GE installed monitoring wells at the North and South Plant facilities, analyzed soil samples collected from the well borings, and implemented a groundwater monitoring program. In addition, GE collected surface water, seep, and sediment samples from locations at the North Plant and on property adjacent to the Morgantown facility. In 1995, GE collected soil samples from locations where contaminants may have been released at the North and South Plant facilities and at the Laboratory. In 1996, GE submitted a Draft RFI Report summarizing the RFI investigation activities as well as any investigations conducted previous to the RFI. In the Draft Report, GE concluded that only limited areas required further interest by the corrective action program. GE concurrently submitted requests to conduct as focused Interim Measures (1) an investigation of dichloroethane in groundwater at a limited area in the North Plant, and (2) a source stabilization (via removal) of surficial coal tars by the location of former coal tar storage tanks in the South Plant. In 2000, GE implemented source stabilization by removing surficial coal tars from the area of the former coal tar storage tanks.

EPA issued comments on the Draft RFI in April, 2002, that identified different conclusions and additional data gaps. During Fall, 2003, GE conducted a Phase II RFI that included collecting soil and groundwater from the North Plant, South Plant, and the Laboratory. During 2004, GE evaluated the analytical results from samples collected during the Phase II RFI, collected samples from an additional area that was identified by the EPA in 2003, and conducted a radiation survey at the North and South Plants and the Laboratory at the request of the EPA. The investigation for radiation yielded no evidence of radiological contamination. On September 20, 2004, GE submitted final analytical results for the samples collected during the Fall, 2003, along

with assessments of the data in the Draft Phase II RFI Report. In addition, GE submitted a Draft Environmental Assessment for the Former Ammonia Storage Sphere Structures in October, 2004. EPA is currently reviewing these reports.

In 2005, GE performed a hydrogeological evaluation and in April, 2005, GE submitted a report on this evaluation entitled the Draft Bedrock and Overburden Investigation Report. On June 15, 2005, EPA provided comments to GE on the Draft Bedrock and Overburden Investigation Report.

With respect to investigation activities implemented by Crompton related to ongoing operations, during 2004 Crompton evaluated the potential for airborne releases from the waste water plant operations to impact human health. The evaluation indicates that there is no unacceptable human health impact resulting from contaminants known or estimated to be released to outdoor air from the waste water treatment plant operations.

With respect to remediation activities implemented by Crompton, in November 2003, in preparation for construction of a dike at the North Plant, Crompton excavated soil contaminated with dichloroethane (DCA). Crompton stored the excavated soil at a location on the North Plant near the excavation area for 10 to 14 days. In December, 2003, Crompton moved the excavated soil to a soil pile storage area at the South Plant. In January and February, 2004, Crompton collected and analyzed samples of the excavated soil at the South Plant. The analytical results identified the presence of DCA in the excavated soil. In February, 2004, Crompton moved the excavated soil from the South Plant soil storage area to covered containers. Additional analytical results demonstrated that the contaminated soil was not a hazardous waste, and, in April, 2004, Crompton transferred the contaminated soil to an offsite solid waste landfill. On September 9, 2004, Crompton collected samples from the South Plant area to confirm that all of the contaminated soil had been removed. On May 23, 2005, EPA determined that Crompton has completed its responsibilities associated with removal of that contaminated soil and that any remaining RCRA corrective action issues, unrelated to any new releases, are the responsibility of GE. In a July 2005 Progress Report, GE noted its disagreement with EPA's determination.

On September 30, 2004, EPA determined that current human exposures at the facility are under control.

With respect to hazardous waste permitting requirements related to the GE Specialty Chemicals Facility, on December 19, 2000, the State of West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection Office of Waste Management issued a Hazardous Waste Management Permit for operation of one (1) container storage area and two (2) storage tanks for ten years.

## **Site Description**

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The GE Specialty Chemicals Facility consists of three non-contiguous properties within the Morgantown Industrial Park. The three properties are the North Plant, a South Plant, and a laboratory located on property between the North and South Plants. The RCRA identification numbers for the North Plant and the South Plant are WVD980552384 and WVD061776977, respectively. The North and South plants are each located on approximately 30 acres while the

Laboratory is located on approximately 3/4 of an acre. From 1940 to 1958, successive owners and operators, including the U.S. Government, Dupont Corporation, Sharon Steel, Heyden Chemical (Tenneco) and Matheson Chemical (Olin) used coal to produce coke, ammonia, methanol, formaldehyde, and hexamine at the facility. From 1943 to 1945, heavy water (deuterium) was manufactured at the facility to support the Manhattan Project. Disposal of fly ash, coal ash, cinders, excess coal, and coal tar wastes occurred throughout the property during the nearly 20 years of coal-related processing operations associated with the facility. The facility was inactive from 1958 to 1962 when a specialty chemical business began to be operated at the facility by Weston Chemical/Borg-Warner. GE purchased the Weston/Borg-Warner property in 1988. Currently, antioxidants, hydrochloric acid, and organophosphorous polymer additive stabilizers are manufactured at the North Plant and alkyl phenols, hydrochloric acid, and organophosphorous polymer additive stabilizers are manufactured at the South Plant. The drinking water intake for the City of Morgantown is located directly across the river from the North Plant. The Facility is located within a Superfund site commonly referred to as the Morgantown Ordnance Works. Acid mine drainage appears to impact a tributary entering the North Plant facility.

## Site Responsibility

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RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 with assistance from the State.

## Contaminants

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In the findings of fact presented in the 1990 Consent Order requiring investigation, benzene and toluene were identified as having been found at concentrations greater than drinking water standards in the North Plant and toluene was found at a concentration greater than the drinking water standard in the South Plant. As a result of the facility wide investigations, different chemicals of concern have been identified. Those chemicals include dichloroethane, trichloroethane, perchloroethylene and arsenic in the North Plant and perchloroethylene and its breakdown products, as well as polyaromatic hydrocarbon compounds in the South Plant. .

## Community Interaction

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The North and South plants of the GE Specialty Chemicals, Morgantown, WV facility, are located in an industrial complex located along the west bank of the Monongehela River in Morgantown, WV. The City of Morgantown is located across the river and to the north of the facility.

The facility has a community relations plan in place to keep the community informed about the status of corrective action. The facility informs the community about progress on the investigations through occasional meetings with the community and occasional newsletters. Evelyn Ryan of the Dominion Post Newspaper has also reported on the status of the corrective action. On July 21, 2000, GE issued a fact sheet announcing remediation of the coal tar tanks.

# **Institutional Controls**

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The need for Institutional Controls at this facility has not been established.

# **Government Contacts**

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: [www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm)

# **Facility Contact**

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